In the claims:

1. In a distributed system having a first node coupled to a first output device and a second node coupled to a second output device, a method of processing an image object included in an associated image object file at the first node so as to provide on-demand rasterization appropriate for the second output device, comprising:

associating a state information file to the image object;

forwarding the image object and the associated state information file to the second node;

appropriately rasterizing the image object based upon the second output device as needed; and

outputting the appropriately rasterized image object at the second output device.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the state information file includes an edit list, and wherein the image object file includes a digital negative associated with the image object.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

at the second node,

determining if the edit list is an embedded edit list.

4. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

if it is determined that the edit list is an embedded edit list, then

retrieving an embedded edit list element included in the embedded edit list; and

retrieving the digital negative.

5. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

if it is determined that the edit list is an external edit list, then

locating the external edit list based upon an external edit list pointer, and

retrieving an external edit list element included in the external edit list.

6. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the rasterizing comprises:

determining a resolution appropriate to the second output device based upon the retrieved edit list element; and

outputting the rasterized digital image.

7. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the rasterizing comprises:

determining a resolution appropriate to the second output device based upon the retrieved external edit list element; and

outputting the rasterized digital image.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the image object includes a plurality of digital negatives.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the image object file includes a high resolution image and wherein the digital image is re-rasterized to form a lower resolution image as required by the second output device.

10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the edit list includes instructions describing how the digital image is to be re-rasterized.

11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the forwarding comprises:

wirelessly transmitting the image object and the associated state information file to the second node from the first node.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the first node is coupled to the second node by way of a server node that directs the transmitting.

13. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first output device is selected from a group comprising: a printer, a digital video camera, a digital still camera, a TV monitor, a low resolution LCD screen, TV.

14. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the second output device is selected from a group comprising: a printer, a digital video camera, a digital still camera, a TV monitor, a low resolution LCD screen, TV.

15. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first node is connected to a first input device and wherein the second node is connected to a second input device, wherein the first and the second input devices are each capable of modifying an associated image object.

16. In a distributed system having a first node coupled to a first output device and a second node coupled to a second output device, an apparatus for processing an image object included in an associated image object file at the first node so as to provide on-demand rasterization appropriate for the second output device, comprising:

a means for associating a state information file to the image object;

a means for forwarding the image object and the associated state information file to the second node;

a means for appropriately rasterizing the image object based upon the second output device as needed; and

a means for outputting the appropriately rasterized image object at the second output device.

17. An apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the state information file includes an edit list, and wherein the image object file includes a digital negative associated with the image object.

18. An apparatus as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

at the second node,

a means for determining if the edit list is an embedded edit list.

19. An apparatus as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

if it is determined that the edit list is an embedded edit list, then

a means for retrieving an embedded edit list element included in the embedded edit list; and

a means for retrieving the digital negative.

20. An apparatus as recited in claim 18, further comprising:

if it is determined that the edit list is an external edit list, then

a means for locating the external edit list based upon an external edit list pointer, and

a means for retrieving an external edit list element included in the external edit list.

21. An apparatus as recited in claim 19, wherein the rasterizing comprises:

a means for determining a resolution appropriate to the second output device based upon the retrieved edit list element; and

a means for outputting the rasterized digital image.

22. An apparatus as recited in claim 19, wherein the rasterizing comprises:

a means for determining a resolution appropriate to the second output device based upon the retrieved external edit list element; and

a means for outputting the rasterized digital image.

23. An apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the image object includes a plurality of digital negatives.

24. An apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the image object file includes a high resolution image and wherein the rasterized digital image is a lower resolution image as required by the second output device.

25. An apparatus as recited in claim 17, wherein the edit list includes instructions describing how the digital image is to be re-rasterized.

26. An apparatus as recited in claim 17, wherein the forwarding comprises:

a means for wirelessly transmitting the image object and the associated state information file to the second node from the first node.

27. An apparatus as recited in claim 26, wherein the first node is coupled to the second node by way of a server node that directs the transmitting.